D-271 Wesley United Methodist Church Eldorado vicinity 1874 Public worship

Built in 1874, the Wesley United Methodist Church, historically a Methodist Episcopal congregation, stands along the main road connecting Eldorado and Federalsburg just south of the rural crossroads of Finchville in the Fork election district. The Greek Revival/Italianate influenced building retains its essential integrity despite its sheathing of vinyl siding over the original weatherboards and corner pilasters. The gable-front elevation is marked by a center double-door entrance that features an ornamental hood of factory-produced brackets and cornice decorations. Italianate style brackets also highlight the long windows on each side elevation. The mixture of Greek Revival and Italianate brackets is common to the third quarter of the nineteenth century when both of these styles were in fashion and often mixed. The interior is fitted with a combination of Greek Revival and Victorian woodwork. Framing the recessed altar is a bold Greek Revival entablature supported on wide pilasters. The perimeter of the sanctuary is trimmed with flat-panel wainscoting. Also distinctive to the interior is a pressed metal ceiling that incorporates the popular acanthus leaf motif in the cornice.

The early history of the Wesley United Methodist Church is tied to the Cokesbury congregation founded in 1832 according to E. C. Hallman's *The Garden of Methodism*. As the population increased across the Fork election district during the post Civil War decade, it was decided to erect a new church on the main road connecting Crotcher's Ferry (Eldorado) and Federalsburg. Initially, the plan included the abandonment of the Cokesbury church, however, that proved untenable to some

members. The Cokesbury retained a membership the continued worshipping at the original site. The new Wesley M. E. Church was built on a ½-acre lot donated by Tilghman and Caroline Hackett, the deed for which was not conveyed until 1885. The Hacketts conveyed the property to church trustees, James M. Smith, James F. Wheatley, Nathaniel B. LeCompte, William L. D. Tull, Tilghman Hackett, Eli W. Gordy, all of Dorchester County, and John A. Williams of adjacent Caroline County.

Inventory No. D-271

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

historic	Was	ley M. E. Church			
ather		sley United Methodist C	hurah		
other		siey United Methodist Ci	nurch		
2. Location					
street and numbe	r 6304	Eldorado-Federalsburg	Road	_ r	not for publication
city, town	Eldo	rado		x v	vicinity
county	Dorc	hester			
3. Owner o	f Property	(give names and mailing	addresses of all owners)		
name	Trus	stees of Wesley M. E. C	hurch Rev. Bonnie	Shively	
street and number	er 693	1 Reliance Road		telephone	
city, town	Fed	eralsburg	state MD	zip code 2	1632
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7. Description		Inventory No. D-271
Condition		
x excellent good fair	deteriorated ruins altered	

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Wesley M. E. Church, known currently as the Wesley United Methodist Church, stands at the northwest corner of MD Route 313 (Eldorado-Federalsburg Road) and Wesley Road north of Eldorado in the Fork Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story one-bay by three-bay frame church, erected in 1874, is supported on a modern brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with vinyl siding. The medium pitched gable-front roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Accompanying the church on the corner lot is a single-story gable-front church hall erected during the early to mid twentieth century.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Wesley M. E. Church stands on the northwest corner of MD Route 313 (Eldorado-Federalsburg Road) in the central section of the Fork Election District of Dorchester County, Maryland. Eldorado, the nearest town, is approximately 2 ¾ miles south and the crossroads community formerly known as Finchville is located less than a mile to the north. Supported on a modern brick foundation, the single-story, gable-front frame church dates to 1874, which is documented by a marble stone fixed in the northeast corner of the rebuilt foundation. The rectangular frame structure is sheathed with vinyl siding and is covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. The church faces east with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical façade with a tall centrally positioned, double-door entrance. The replacement front doors are framed by an entrance surround featuring a Victorian bracketed cornice above a paneled transom that now features a round, colored glass window installed within the past 25 years. Fixed in the northeast corner of the foundation is the marble datestone, which is inscribed, "Wesley M. E. Church, A.D. 1874." The outside corners of the east wall are defined by wide paneled pilasters that rise to the boxed cornice of the roof edge. The roof edge is finished with an extended eave within usually long returns above the Greek Revival pilasters.

The north and south side of the church are essentially the same and are defined by three evenly spaced four-over-four sash windows filled with opaque leaf-pattern glass typical of the late nineteenth century. Fixed atop each window opening is a decorative bracketed lintel. Shutters that once flanked the window openings have been removed. The rear corners of the church are marked by wide corner pilasters as well.

The rear (west) wall is defined by a shorter single-story gable-roofed apse, which features wide corner pilasters on each side of a round arched four-over-four sash window that pierces the gable end.

Inventory No. D-271

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Wesley M. E. Church Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

The interior of the church has survived in a well preserved state with much of its third and fourth quarter of the nineteenth century fabric intact. Trimming the perimeter walls is a low, flat-panel wainscoting, and the window and door openings are framed by heavily molded Victorian surrounds. The altar recess is framed by a bold neoclassical surround, and to each side are four-panel doors that open into small closets. Fronting the altar is a low turned baluster railing. The ceiling is finished with pressed metal with an acanthus leaf motif featured in the cornice. The lighting has been altered with modern fixtures, and a wall-to-wall carpet is laid throughout. Board pews with curved ends are painted white.

Standing southwest of the church is a single-story, gable-front frame church hall that was formerly a store building that was relocated from Rhodesdale to this site in 1950. The rectangular frame structure is supported on a modern concrete block foundation and the exterior is sheathed with vinyl siding. The front of the hall is pierced by a center door flanked by large four-pane window openings.

8. Signific	ance			Inventory No. D-271	
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and j	ustify below		
1600-1699 1700-1799 x _1800-1899 1900-1999 2000-	agriculture archeology x architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	 economics education engineering entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement 	health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime history military	performing arts philosophy politics/government religion science social history transportation other:	
Specific dates	1874		Architect/Builder		
Construction da	ates				
Evaluation for:					
	National Register	N	Maryland Register	xnot evaluated	

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1874, the Wesley United Methodist Church, historically a Methodist Episcopal congregation, stands along the main road connecting Eldorado and Federalsburg in the central section of the Fork election district. The Greek Revival/Italianate influenced building retains its essential integrity despite its sheathing of vinyl over the original weatherboards and corner pilasters. The gable-front elevation is marked by a center, double-door entrance that features an ornamental hood of factory-produced brackets and cornice decorations. Italianate style brackets also highlight the long windows on each side elevation. The mixture of Greek Revival corner pilasters and ornamental Italianate brackets is common to the third quarter of the nineteenth century when both of these stylistic trends were in fashion. The interior is finished with a mixture of Greek Revival and Victorian woodwork. Framing the recessed altar is a bold Greek Revival entablature supported by wide pilasters. The perimeter of the sanctuary is trimmed with a flat panel wainscoting. Also distinctive to the interior is a pressed metal ceiling that incorporates the acanthus leaf motif in the cornice.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The early history of the Wesley United Methodist Church is tied to the Cokesbury church founded in 1832 according to E. C. Hallman's *The Garden of Methodism*. As the population increased over the course of the mid nineteenth century, it was decided to erect a new church on the main road connecting Crotcher's Ferry (Eldorado) and Federalsburg. Initially, the plan included abandoning the Cokesbury church, however that proved untenable to some members. The Cokesbury church retained a membership that continued worshipping at the original site, and the new Wesley M. E. Church was erected on a half-acre parcel donated by Tilghman and Caroline Hackett, the deed for which was not formally conveyed until 1885. The Hacketts conveyed the property to church trustees, James M. Smith,

¹ E. C. Hallman, The Garden of Methodism, The Peninsula Annual Conference, 1948, p. 304.

² Dorchester County Land Record, HD 8/12, 31 December 1885, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-271

Name Wesley M. E. Church Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

James F. Wheatley, Nathaniel B. LeCompte, William L. D. Tull, Tilghman Hackett, Eli W. Gordy, all of Dorchester County and John A. Williams of nearby Caroline County.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-271

Name Wesley M. E. Church Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Wesley M. E. Church Chain of title Map 15, Parcel 11

HD 8/12

Tilghman Hackett & wife Caroline

to

12.31.1885

James M. Smith, James F. Wheatley, Nathaniel B. LeCompte, William L. D. Tull, Tilghman Hackett, Eli W. Gordy of Dorchester County and John A. Williams of Caroline County, Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church

All that lot or parcel of ground situate lying and being on the west side of the county road running from Crotchers Ferry to Finchville and bounded on the south side by a County road....said lot or parcel of ground being a part of the home farm of the said Tilghman Hackett and containing a half acre of land "In trust that the said premises shall be used, kept and maintained as a place of Divine Worship for the use of the Ministry and Membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America...

1/2 acre

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-271

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

E. C. Hallman, The Garden of Methodism, The Peninsular Annual Conferene, 1948.

Graham, John L. The 1877 Atlases and Other Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Interview with Alice Fooks, congregant, Wesley United Methodist Church, 2.07.08

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	1 acre		
Acreage of historical setting	½ acre		
Quadrangle name	Rhodesdale, MD Quandrangle	Quadrangle scale:	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this surveyed property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	1/28/2008
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

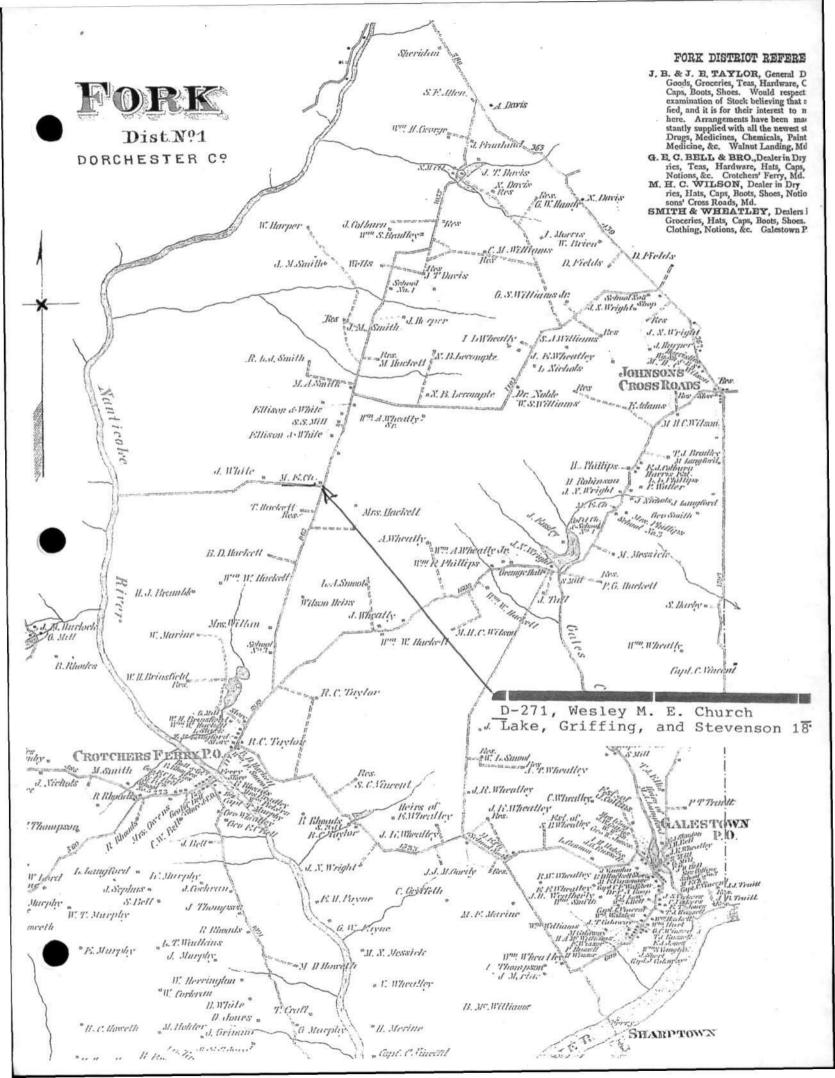
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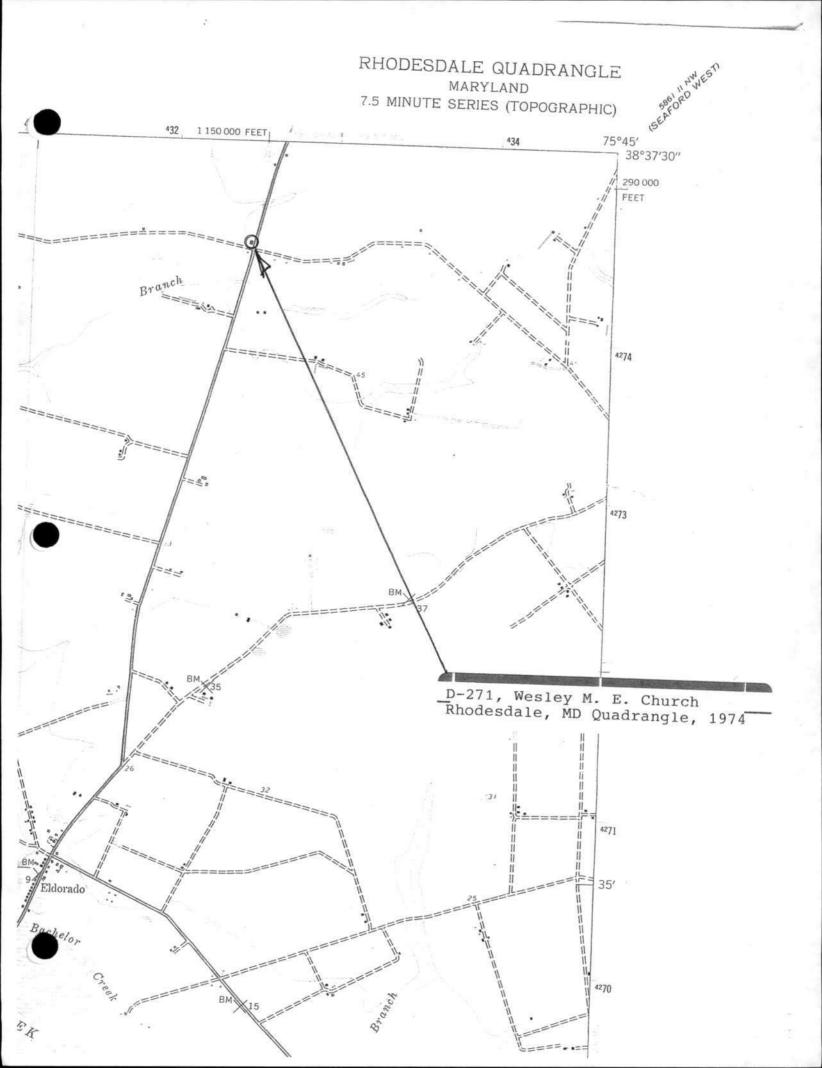
Maryland Historical Trust DHCD/DHCP 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600

John Tuber an J. J. C& No 8 falio 12 Jaures M. Smith and Be it reverembered, and it is hereby others Trustees certified. That the following From Deed was be ceived and record Telghunaw Hackett + wife ed on the 41h day of January A.D: 1886. Fo wit: This deed made this Thirty I first day of December, in the year of Our Lord. Over thous and seight hundred and eighty five by un Tilghonew Hacket and barvline Hackett his wife of Sirchester bounty State of Mary land, Vitnesseth that in courideration of one doll as to un board paid. The receipt whereof is herely acknowledged. We the Laid Tilghman Huckett and his wife do grant unto James Ho Smith. James Fr Cohe alley Methaniel B Let out to. William & I Sull, Dilyhman Hackett, Cli W. Serry of the County werd State Safores and, and John A eviliums of Caroline County.

11111 Stale aforer aid Trustees of the Methodist Epuscopal Church and their successors forever all that lot or parcel of ground Selevate lying and being on the west side of the county road running from Grotchers Ferry to Fin chville and bounded on the South Side by as bruty road intersecting aforesaid bounty road and running lowards the North west Fork of the Nanticoke River, and also bound on the North by the Lands of J. J. Savage . Laid Lot or parcel of grands bring a part of the home farm of the Said Tilghman Hackett and Containing one hay acre of land In trust that the Said premises shall be used Kept, and maintained as a place of Devine Worship for the use of the Ministry and Men bership of the methodist Epispocal Church in the United It aler of America Subject to the Disciplin usage and Unaterial appointments of Laid Church as from time to time authorized and decided by the Lennal Confuence within whose bounds the said premises are setuate, and if the Said premises be sold the proceeds of the Same Shall be disposed of in accordance with the Disciplin of the Land Methodist opiscopal Church." Witness our hands and Lealy Wilghman Hackett Speak Noah A. Joues. Caroline Hacketh & Soal

Drate of Maryland Dorchester County to evel; I herely Lertify that on this thirty first day of December in the year of our Lord One Thrus and, Eight hundred and Eighty five. before me the Subscriber one of the Justices of the Veace of the State and County aforeraid. personally ap. peared Tidghman Hackett and Caroline Hackett his wife and acknowleged the foregoing deed to be their respective act; Noah A. Jones . J. J.







D-271
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2/08, PAUL TOURIT, PITOTICARADITEN
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4

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

	NAME COMMON:	*				
	Wesley M. E.	Church				
2.	LOCATION					
	STREET AND NUMBER:				<u></u>	
	Md. Rt. 313,	at Wesley	Road	8		
	Rhodesdale			COUNTY:		
	Maryland		1	Dorche	ster	
3.	CLASSIFICATION			202000		
L	CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	TO THE PUBL
	□ District ⊠ Building □ Site □ Structure □ Object	Public Private Both	Public Acquisition In Proc	055	Occupied Unoccupied Preservation work in progress	Yes: Restricted Unrestricte
	PRESENT USE (Check One or A	More as Appropriate)				
	Commercial In	dustrial [Park Private Resider Religious	nce [Transportation Other (Specify)	Comments
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4.	OWNER'S NAME:	The state of the s			<u> </u>	
4.		Church		STATE:		lasce
-	Wesley M. E. STREET AND NUMBER: CITY OR TOWN: Rhodesdale			nout house and	rland	2165
-	Wesley M. E. STREET AND NUMBER: CITY OR TOWN: Rhodesdale LOCATION OF LEGAL DESC COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF Dorchester Co	CRIPTION DEEDS, ETC:		nout house and	rland	2165
-	Wesley M. E. STREET AND NUMBER: CITY OR TOWN: Rhodesdale LOCATION OF LEGAL DESC COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF Dorchester Co	CRIPTION DEEDS, ETC:		nout house and	rland	2165
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T	DESCRIPTION	1			(Check One)		
	COMPUTION	☐ Excellent	50	Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
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This church is typical of the mid-19th century. Like most of the small Dorchester and Caroline County structures, this building has a central gable entrance. Its double doors have panels above, matching the panels on the doors, and an even higher architrave. On the corners of the building are recessed paneled pilasters, the capitals of which end before they reach the overhanging eave. The building is constructed on a brick foundation, which is 20th century in date. The base of the structure is covered with plywood, although, there obviously was a very wide lower board. The walls are covered with weatherboard approximately 5 inch exposure.

The church is three bays deep with 4/4 sash and louvered shutters. At the top of each of the windows is a rather simple decorative cornice. In the west gable is a very small projection from the sancturary, which also has corner pilasters. It is a much lower portion and has

a single 4/4 sash and an "A" roof.

The building has an "A" roof. Between the second and third bays, on each side, is a brick chimney that issues from the roof. In the north east corner is a date plaque with the words: Wesley M. E. Church, a.d. 1874.

RIOD (Check One or More as	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 15th Century	17th Century	≥ 19th Century	Zorn Century
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☐ Agriculture ☑ Architecture	☐ Invention	Science	
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☐ Communications	☐ Military	☐ Theater	
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D-271

Wesley M.E. Church D-271

MiBourne Nov 1975